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PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND THE STATE OF THE UNION

President Eisenhower, in his Message on the State of the Union before a joint session of Congress, January 6, sketched in broad and general language the policies he will recommend related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The following quotes, as recorded by the New York Times (January 7) will be of interest:

"We must continue to support and strengthen the United Nations. . ."

"We must also encourage the efforts being made in the United Nations to limit armaments and to harness the atom to peaceful use."

". . . A realistic limitation of armaments and an enduring, just peace remain our national goals; we maintain powerful military forces because there is no present alternative -- they are forces designed for deterrent and defensive purposes, able instantly to strike back with destructive power in response to any attack."

". . . Barriers still impede trade and the flow of capital needed to develop each nation's human and material resources. Wise reduction of these barriers is a long-term objective of our foreign economic policy -- a policy of an evolutionary and selective nature, assuring broad benefits to our own and to other people.

"We must gradually reduce certain tariff obstacles to trade. These actions should, of course, be accompanied by a similar lowering of trade barriers by other nations, so that we may move steadily together toward economic advantage for all. We must further simplify customs procedures. We must facilitate the flow of capital and continue technical assistance, both directly and through the United Nations. This must go to less developed countries to strengthen their independence and raise their living standards."

"Our many efforts to build a better world include the maintenance of our military strength. This is a vast undertaking. Over four million Americans -- servicemen and civilians -- are on the rolls of the Defense establishment. . ."

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"We must expand international trade and investment and assist friendly nations whose own best efforts are still insufficient to provide the strength essential to the security of the free world.

"We must be willing to use the processes of negotiation whenever they will advance the cause of just and secure peace.

"In respect to all these matters, we must, through a vigorous information program, keep the peoples of the world truthfully advised of our action and purposes."

These quotes, at many points, reflect the concern of the churches for world justice and peace.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND THE PROBLEMS OF MILITARY MAN POWER

The question of military training is one that has engaged the thoughtful attention of the churches for many years. It is important that the churches know what is in the President's mind respecting this matter. The following are quotes from his State of the Union Message:

"To help maintain this kind of armed strength and to improve its efficiency, I urge the enactment of several important measures.

"The first concerns the Selective Service Act which expires next June 30. For the foreseeable future, our standing forces must remain much larger than voluntary methods can sustain. We must, therefore, extend the statutory authority to induct men for two years of military service.

"The second kind of measure concerns the rapid turnover of our most experienced service men." "To encourage more trained service men to remain in uniform, I shall, on the thirteenth of this month, propose a number of measures to increase the attractions of a military career."

"And third I shall present a program to rebuild and strengthen the civilian components of our armed forces. Because it will go far in assuring fair and equitable participation in military service, it is of particular importance to our combat veterans. In keeping with historic military policy the program is designed to build civilian Reserves capable of effective military service in an emergency in lieu of maintaining active forces in excess of the nation's immediate need."

As the details of the President's plan for building up a Reserve force are unfolded they will be brought to the attention of the readers of the Newsletter.

A NEW NAME

The Department of International Justice and Goodwill of the National Council of Churches has a new name. Hereafter this Department will be known as the Department of International Affairs. This name more accurately describes the full range of the Department's concerns. Moreover, the new name conforms to common ecumenical usage.

Readers of the Christian Newsletter on International Affairs will be introduced in next month's issue to the newly elected Associate Executive Director of the Department.

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Ninth UN General Assembly, which adjourned in late December, dealt with many issues of particular concern to the churches.

1. Disarmament

In its letter of September 15, 1954, addressed to the United States Delegation to the UN the National Council of Churches said: "In our present world of tension and conflict we believe the United States must remain militarily strong. At the same time we urge our government to work unceasingly and despite all obstacles for the universal regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces through the United Nations. An acceptable system of armament control must be safeguarded by international inspection."

What did the General Assembly do? It adopted, by unanimous vote, a resolution requesting the five leading atomic powers to resume private negotiations in search of an agreement that would include the prohibition of nuclear weapons. An advance toward the disarmament goal was registered when the U.S.S.R. withdrew its demand that, prior to a general disarmament convention, there be negotiated a pledge against the use of nuclear weapons. Moreover, the U.S.S.R. appeared to be more responsive to the demand for a fool-proof system of international inspection and control. The fact that the resolution on disarmament was approved by a unanimous vote suggests that world public opinion, made articulate in the General Assembly, is a factor of immense importance in the behavior of nations. It remains to be seen what, if any, progress is achieved once private negotiations are resumed during the months ahead.

2. Atoms-For-Peace

The National Council of Churches supported the proposal of President Eisenhower for the pooling of fissionable materials for peaceful purposes.

What did the General Assembly do? An analysis of the General Assembly's action in this respect was carried in the December issue of the Newsletter. It will suffice to underscore the unanimous vote by which the General Assembly endorsed the creation of an international agency to promote and supervise the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Here, again, the Soviet Union yielded to the power of world public opinion. The resolution instructs the UN Secretary General to convene an international conference of governments (by next August) to study the development of atomic power and the application of atomic knowledge to medicine, biology, and other humanitarian endeavors.

As an earnest of their purpose to move forward in the creation of the proposed peacetime atomic agency, the United States and Great Britain both announced contributions of fissionable materials. The U.S.S.R. declined to do this, at least for the present. Meanwhile, private talks between Washington and Moscow are continuing.

3. Technical Assistance

The National Council of Churches supports "efforts to raise the living standards of economically underdeveloped areas through technical assistance and economic development. In its letter to the U. S. Delegation the National Council called for the fullest possible participation by the United States in such UN programs as offer promise of developing the technically retarded areas.

What did the General Assembly do? It enthusiastically endorsed the UN Technical Assistance program. Pledges were forthcoming from various member states to the amount of \$12,264,000. It is regrettable that the U.S. Delegation was not able to make, at

the time, a definite pledge. Congress earlier had directed the U. S. Delegation to refrain from making a specific pledge until the money had actually been voted. The General Assembly was assured, however, that President Eisenhower was behind the program. The Economic and Social Council was requested to study means of obtaining contributions on a continuing basis. Only in this way can long range programs of economic assistance be projected with the assurance of their being completed.

4. UN Fund for Economic Development

In its letter to the U.S. Delegation the National Council of Churches said: "The proposed UN fund for economic development is worthy of careful consideration . . ."

What did the General Assembly do? It endorsed the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that there be created a new international agency to help finance industrial development in the less developed areas of the world. The new agency is to be known as the International Finance Corporation, and will be affiliated with the already established International Bank. President Eisenhower has announced that he will ask Congress for \$35,000,000 for the U.S. contribution to the organization provided at least 30 other nations express their interest and support. It is hoped the projected corporation will facilitate the flow of capital from private sources, a most worthy objective.

5. Imprisonment of U.S. Fliers in China

The churches have a definite interest in securing the release of the imprisoned U.S. fliers. For one thing, the release of these fliers would bring to an end the dangerous talk about blockading the China mainland. By the overwhelming vote of 47 to 5, with 7 abstentions, the General Assembly condemned "the trial and conviction of prisoners of war illegally detained" by Communist China after the date fixed by the Korean armistice. The UN Secretary-General was instructed to make "unremitting efforts" to obtain the release of the eleven U.S. airmen allegedly convicted of espionage by a Communist Chinese military tribunal, and of all other captured personnel of the UN command not released.

6. Collective Security

In its letter to the U.S. Delegation the National Council of Churches affirmed its conviction "that aggression should be met collectively and in harmony with the principles of the UN Charter." The belief was expressed "that members of the UN should make armed forces available to the organization for collective action . . ."

What did the General Assembly do? Despite strong Soviet objections the General Assembly continued its Collective Measures Committee. It reaffirmed the principles designed to guide member countries in the event they were called upon to act together to resist military aggression. The Assembly also recommended that logistic support be supplied to states that might wish to contribute manpower but lacked means to supply or train their own contingents.

7. Refugees

Of continuing interest to the churches is the intervention of the UN looking toward the relief and rehabilitation of refugees.

What did the General Assembly do? Assistance to Arab refugees was extended for an additional period of five years. It approved an allocation of \$26,000,000 for the relief of these refugees, and an additional \$36,000,000 to forward land development and other works programs designed to make the refugees self-supporting.

In another action the General Assembly proposed the establishment of a new voluntary fund to promote a permanent solution of the global refugee problem. This operation would fall under the aegis of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

8. Human Rights

The churches have followed with prayerful interest the efforts of the UN to establish and safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms.

What did the General Assembly do? It took note of the fact that two draft international covenants on human rights have been in preparation since 1948. It reaffirmed its belief that these two covenants should be adopted in their final form as quickly as possible. In its Resolution the General Assembly invited governments of Member States and non-Members of the United Nations to communicate to the Secretary-General, within six months any amendments, or additions to the drafts, or any observations thereon.

Also, the Non-Governmental Organizations interested in the human rights question, including those in the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, were invited by the General Assembly to stimulate public interest in the draft covenants in their respective countries.

9. Colonial and Non-Self-Governing Areas

The General Assembly, on the question of Tunisia, Morocco, and Cyprus, resorted to a delaying action. With respect to Tunisia and Morocco, the General Assembly decided "to postpone for the time being" further consideration of these items. With respect to Cyprus the General Assembly said that "for the time being, it does not appear appropriate to adopt a resolution"

It seems certain that these and similar issues related to the status of colonial and non-self-governing areas and peoples will continue to be raised in the General Assembly. Delaying tactics will not suffice.

10. Trusteeship Matters

Since the establishment of the UN the churches have continued their lively interest in the actions of the Trusteeship Council and in the decisions of the General Assembly thereto. What did the General Assembly do?

South-West Africa

The General Assembly, once more, called upon the Union of South Africa, to place South-West Africa under a Trusteeship Agreement. It was recalled that "in accordance with Chapter XII of the Charter all Mandated Territories which have not achieved independence have been brought under the Trusteeship System with the sole exception of the Territory of South-West Africa."

Attainment of Self-Government or Independence

The General Assembly, by a vote of 41 to 8, with 5 abstentions, adopted a resolution in which it was recommended to the Administering Authorities that, "as a means to facilitate an approximate determination of the date on which the populations of the Trust Territories would be prepared for self-government, or independence, they should intensify their efforts to the utmost to bring about the establishment of new represen-

tative organs of government and administration in the Trust Territories, with increasing participation therein by indigenous elements of those Territories"

In still other resolutions, the General Assembly called upon the Administering Members of Trust Territories to give greater heed to the educational, cultural, and economic advancement of the indigenous populations of these Territories.

Other Items of Interest

Narcotics. The General Assembly decided to establish a United Nations Narcotics Laboratory in Geneva. This city is to be the site of the Division of Narcotic Drugs under the Secretariat reorganization plan.

Children. The varied activities of the United Nations Emergency Children's Fund were highly commended. Members and non-Member states were urged to continue their efforts to secure adequate resources for these humanitarian endeavors. Taking into account the increasing attention given by States and peoples to a better observance of the rights of mothers and children, the General Assembly recommended that a Universal Children's Day be instituted in all countries, to be observed as "a day of world-wide fraternity and understanding between children and of activity devoted to the promotion of the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world, and to the strengthening and broadening of the efforts made by the United Nations in favor and on behalf of all the children of the world. . . ."

Forced Labor. Upon recommendation of the United States and ten other Western Powers the General Assembly adopted 41 to 5 (Soviet bloc) with 10 abstentions a resolution condemning forced labor as a means of political punishment. The Economic and Social Council and the International Labor Organization were urged to continue their efforts toward the abolition of such practice.

Race Problem in South Africa. The General Assembly after recalling its prior judgment "that it is in the higher interest of humanity to put an end to racial persecution and discrimination," called upon the Union of South Africa to reconsider its policies respecting diverse racial groups and again invited that country to take into account the suggestions of the UN Commission on the Racial Conflict in the Union of South Africa looking toward a peaceful solution of this problem.

In another action the General Assembly recommended that India, Pakistan, and South Africa engage in direct negotiation respecting the problem of the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa.

"ATOMS FOR PEACE"

"Atoms for Peace" is the subject of two newly built mobile exhibit units that the U. S. Information Agency is sending on extended tours of India, Pakistan, and the Middle East as part of its program of publicizing abroad the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The first of several projects supporting the President's "Atoms for Peace" program - a special 4-week course in radioisotope techniques for scientists and technicians from 53 countries - has been announced by the Atomic Energy Commission. The first group will begin training at Oak Ridge, Tenn., on May 2, 1955.

INTRODUCING THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ernest A. Gross, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and a former Assistant Secretary of State, has been named chairman of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches. He succeeds Mrs. Douglas Horton as head of the Department through which the 30 denominations of the National Council express their Christian concern for world justice and peace.

Mrs. Horton, former President of Wellesley and war-time Director of the WAVES has become a Vice-President of the Council and Chairman of its Division of Christian Life and Work.

Mr. Gross, a member of Christ Church (Methodist) of New York, has a distinguished career as a lawyer in international affairs, in the United States Government, and the United Nations. He was an Assistant Secretary of State in 1948, a U.S. Delegate to three sessions of the UN General Assembly, a Lieutenant Colonel in the War Department's General Staff, and now is special legal adviser to Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations. He also has served as legal adviser to the Department of State and to the U.S. Delegation to the International Labor Organization. He was President of Freedom House in 1953.

Mr. Gross holds the U.S. Legion of Merit and the Order of the British Empire, and is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Society of International Law, and the Middle Temple of the Inns of Court, London, England. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and took post-graduate study at Oxford and the Geneva (Switzerland) School of International Studies.

As Chairman of the National Council's Department of International Affairs, Mr. Gross will share the responsibility of directing the efforts of the member churches of the National Council in their search for world justice and peace. He will bring to the National Council the viewpoint of a distinguished layman whose background and experience in the field of international law will strengthen the witness of the churches in matters pertaining to world order.

COMMUNISM "IN THE SOUP"

The Rev. John A. Havea, of the Tonga Islands is of the opinion that Communism is "in the soup" in the South Pacific. The reason? The Church got there first and changed the people's way of life.

"Communist infiltration is at work in the Tonga Islands, just as it is everywhere," according to Mr. Havea. "This is especially true in the overpopulated areas, but fortunately Christianity was already there and we hold as a Christian people that Christ is the hope of the world. So we have no place for Communism."

Emphasizing the fact that especially where the Protestant Church has strong roots there is no communism, Mr. Havea told the story of a Communist organizer who approached a chief in Tonga with his propaganda. The chief, whose grandfather had been a cannibal, told the organizer, "We are Christians. If this were not so, you would now be in my soup pot."

THE McCARRAN-WALTER ACT

The International Convention of the Disciples of Christ, in Assembly at Miami, Florida, October 25-31, 1954, spoke its mind on the McCarran-Walter Act. After setting forth what is believed to be the defects in our basic immigration and naturalization statute the Convention resolved:

"1. That we view with deep concern the effect of this Act upon free and freedom-loving peoples around the world and upon alien guests within our borders as well as upon our naturalized citizens.

"2. That we urge the members of our churches to inform themselves on the issues this Act presents to their reason and their conscience, and to develop opinions about its relation to the problems of this troubled world, recognizing it as a neighborhood in which we must live with our neighbors as best we can and in which we have responsibilities we cannot evade.

"3. That while recognizing that the Act is not wholly bad, we, at the same time, register our disapproval of its rigidities with regard to the national-origins systems, its unnecessary, unwise and unjust discriminations which are incompatible with our principles of Christian justice.

"4. That we urge the members of our churches to support alternative legislation or such amendments to the Act which more nearly represent the Christian concept of individual worth and the commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy cherished by the American people.

"5. That we join forces with the General Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ, with the Synagogue Council of America, with the editors of many leading newspapers and with other responsible groups in exerting influence to create sufficient concern and public opinion to make the immigration and naturalization law of our land more in harmony with Christian principles of justice and fair play."

YOU WILL WANT TO KNOW

THAT Nelson A. Rockefeller has been appointed by President Eisenhower as his Special Assistant for "advice and assistance in the development of increased understanding and cooperation among all peoples." Mr. Rockefeller will seek means whereby the various departments and agencies of the Government may most effectively contribute to that goal.

THAT President Eisenhower has named Joseph M. Dodge, former Director of the Bureau of the Budget, to be Special Assistant to the President in matters concerned with the development and coordination of foreign economic policy and to be chairman of the Council on Foreign Economic Policy.

THAT Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos have received an additional \$33 million in U.S. assistance to be used for the special refugee relief and resettlement program in Vietnam (\$25 million) and economic and technical assistance activities in the three countries (\$8 million).